

WHITE WATER TO BLUE WATER NEWSLETTER

November-December 2003

Dear White Water to Blue Water Participant:

On behalf of the Steering Committee for the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (hereinafter White Water to Blue Water, or WW2BW), we are pleased to issue the fourth “White Water to Blue Water Newsletter,” a monthly update on the status and activities of the WW2BW Partnership Initiative. This month, we continue our series of articles highlighting the activities of various Steering Committee Sub-Committees with a snapshot of the work being undertaken by the **Sub-Committee on Integrated Watershed Management**. The sub-committee chairs and the WW2BW steering committee welcome your comments and suggestions.

In addition, this month we are able to share more information on the various WW2BW websites (including the Miami Partnership Conference Website and the UNEP Partnership Clearinghouse Website), the Miami conference registration process, and the latest lists of partnership projects under development and capacity building short-courses to be presented at the Miami Partnership conference.

This newsletter is being sent to a wide spectrum of interested participants: WW2BW National Focal Points, partners, members of the Steering Committee, civil society organizations and other stakeholders of the Wider Caribbean Region, and individuals interested in the goals, objectives and activities of the initiative. We encourage you to distribute the monthly newsletters widely to interested parties and we welcome your input, concerns and questions.

International Visitor Team Update and WW2BW Outreach Activities

IVTs have now been conducted in Belize, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Grenada, Haiti, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nicaragua, Guyana, Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles (Curacao and Bonaire), Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Suriname and Mexico. WW2BW has been presented at numerous international conferences and meetings, as well.

In November, WW2BW updates were presented at the annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) meeting in Tortola, the ICRI CFC meeting in Turks and Caicos, the 2nd Caribbean and Latin American Water Fair in Panama, and the annual meeting of the Caribbean Conservation Association in Barbados. In December, WW2BW was presented at the CLAA 27th Miami Conference on the Caribbean Basin in Miami.

The White Water to Blue Water Steering Committee is committed to completing IVT consultations visits throughout the Wider Caribbean before the March 21-26, 2004 Miami Partnership Conference.

Partnerships Update

The Partnership Sub-Committee, in conjunction with thematic sub-committees (i.e., the Sub-Committees on Integrated Watershed Management, Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Environmentally Sound Marine Transportation), continues to update the growing list of potential partnerships for consideration by the WW2BW Steering Committee and regional stakeholders. **The most current list of partnerships was distributed by email to all newsletter subscribers in late November**, and can be found at the NOAA WW2BW website www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw. The WW2BW Steering Committee urges all stakeholders to review this list of partnerships and to contact the listed partnership leaders, relevant co-chairs of the WW2BW sub-committees, or Dick Wilbur, at wilburrm2@state.gov with their input, expressions of interest, or partnership proposals of their own. This list of partnerships is just the beginning of the partnership process, and your input is vital to ensure regional representation in partnership projects.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

The White Water to Blue Water regional stakeholders' partnership conference will be held **March 21-26, 2004**, at the **Hyatt Regency Miami** hotel. This conference, which will focus on networking and the creation of public-private partnerships, is designed to gather national "Country Team" delegations of 5-6 persons from diverse ministries such as Fisheries, Education, Finance, Health, Agriculture, Planning and Tourism to address national and regional needs in watershed and marine ecosystem management. **Country Team delegations should include, where appropriate, representatives from civil society and the private sector, and are designed to bring together technical experts with policymakers at the national level in order to make science-based, comprehensive management decisions and partnership commitments.** National Focal Points for each country are being identified through the "IVT" consultation process; for those countries that have yet to be visited by Steering Committee members, in the interim we are using the list of UNEP-CEP National Focal Points provided by the CEP Secretariat in Kingston, Jamaica. As the conference draws near, we will coordinate logistical arrangements with the National Focal Points to coordinate logistical arrangements and ensure that Country Team delegations are prepared for the conference discussions.

Formal invitations to the governments of the region to attend the Miami conference and to create Country Team delegations will be sent out **before the Christmas/New Year's holidays.**

Conference registration for the Miami conference will commence in January. Since conference participation is limited to 450 participants, of whom approximately 200 will come from the governments of the region, the WW2BW Steering Committee is focused on ensuring the broadest participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, universities, corporations, and the media. For this reason, a pre-registration tool, the **Intent to Participate form**, will be distributed broadly to the region in the next few days. We ask that all prospective participants complete and submit this form by January 9 to help us maximize stakeholder participation. This form will also be available by Christmas on the WW2BW conference website, www.umiami.edu/ww2bw, under the **conference registration link**. Please note that the Steering Committee is endeavoring to find resources to provide partial or full sponsorship of regional NGOs. These funds will be limited, but we are committed to their use to help ensure the widest participation in the Miami conference for those who otherwise could not attend. More on NGO sponsorship will be forthcoming in future newsletters and emails. Please contact us for clarification or questions.

The current list of **Capacity Building Short-courses** will also be distributed in the next few days for review and input from the region. Coordinated by the Smithsonian Institution and UNDP, the Institute@WW2BW will offer capacity building training sessions for conference attendees not otherwise engaged in discussions at any one time. **The WW2BW Steering Committee seeks input from the region on the current list of courses to be offered and expressions of interest from regional experts to present other courses.** The current list of courses will also be available for review and comment on the conference website under the link for Institute@WW2BW.

Website News

The **NOAA document WW2BW** website continues to provide general information about the White Water to Blue Water initiative as well as access to WW2BW background documents (such as the current list of Steering Committee members, and PowerPoint presentations on the initiative in English, Spanish and French). **The current list of WW2BW partnership projects and all WW2BW newsletters can be found there as well.** You can access the website at: <http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw>, and we encourage you to visit the site often.

The **Miami partnership conference website** was launched in November! This website includes registration and hotel information, and general information for use by all stakeholders, the public and the media. As noted above, the Intent to Participate form, a pre-registration tool designed to help us ensure the widest representation of stakeholders in the region, is available on that website. This form must be completed and submitted by January 9, 2004. Please visit the website at: <http://www.umiami.edu/ww2bw>.

The third website, <http://www.ww2bw.org>, which will function as a **clearinghouse/matchmaker for Wider Caribbean Region partnerships**, is now available! The website was designed and will be maintained by the UNEP-CEP Regional Coordinating Unit in Kingston, Jamaica. The list of partnerships under development by the Steering Committee will be posted and updated on this website for public review and comment. Look for a full explanation of the capabilities of this website in the next few weeks. The site is designed to serve the needs of the region for years to come, and will allow for direct access and input from any stakeholder in the region.

All three websites will be **hot-linked to each other** by World Wide Web hyperlinks.

Available Documents

All basic documents on the WW2BW initiative are available on the **NOAA website**. We are also happy to provide these documents by email; please contact us if you would like copies of the following:

- A 2-page glossy (available in English, Spanish, or French)
- WW2BW PowerPoint presentation (in English, Spanish and French)
- Steering Committee Members List
- Conference Subcommittee Leadership List
- Subcommittee Descriptions
- The latest Conference draft agenda
- The latest listing of partnership projects under development
- The latest list of capacity building short courses under development

The Steering Committee is committed to the broadest possible participation in the White Water to Blue Water process, and your questions, comments and input are encouraged and desired. Please contact the following Steering Committee members:

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Sub-Committee of the Month:**Integrated Watershed Management**

The Co-Chairs of the Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) Sub-Committee are: **Vincent Sweeney**, Executive Director of Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (located in St. Lucia); and **Jim Sedell**, Staff Director of Wildlife, Fish, Water, and Air Research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Their emails are: VSweeney@cehi.org.lc and JSedell@fs.fed.us, respectively. **Elizabeth McLanahan**, International Affairs Specialist with the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, serves as the IWM Program liaison and can be contacted at: Elizabeth.McLanahan@noaa.gov.

Approximately 80% of the pollution load in the oceans originates from land-based activities such as municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastes. In turn, these activities pose major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine environment and impact the sustainable development of the dependent communities. WW2BW's goal is to stimulate partnerships that promote integrated watershed and marine-ecosystem based management in support of sustainable development by promoting a cross-sectoral management approach; improving regional communication and collaboration; and developing public-private partnerships.

The proper management of our watersheds is essential for the protection of the marine environment as well as the health of the region's people. The IWM sub-component, therefore, considers both these parameters and tries to incorporate projects from multiple disciplines including science, improved management, community awareness and development, ecosystem protection, and education. The partnership "roll-up" contains an ever-expanding list of projects related to IWM. However, this list represents only the beginning of the partnership possibilities for the region, and the IWM sub-committee welcomes any additions you may have as well as new partners for the existing partnerships. Further, we would like to increase the participation of non-governmental organizations both in the projects and the planning process and would appreciate suggestions or recommendations. Please contact Elizabeth McLanahan directly at her email address listed above.

Partnerships

Some of the partnerships that the IWM sub-component is currently pursuing include:

Sea Grant – a collaborative partnership among government, academia, industry, scientists, etc. to coordinate research, cooperative extension, tech transfer, and education in the area of coastal resources. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center are leading the expansion of this program into Latin America and the Caribbean. (The Sea Grant partnership is highlighted earlier in this newsletter.)

Coral Gardens Initiative – Counterpart International will build upon a successful initiative in the South Pacific by expanding to the Caribbean. The Coral Gardens Initiative enables coastal and island communities to conserve, manage, and restore their coral reefs, and supports poverty

alleviation through public/private partnerships and sustainable enterprise. As the Coral Gardens Caribbean program grows, it will focus particularly on promoting community-based conservation measures as well as certified sustainable reef-based tourism with major resorts in the region, and low-tech restoration approaches.

International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Project (ICWRP) – The Coastal America Foundation in conjunction with the RAMSAR bureau will leverage private sector support to create a small grants program for RAMSAR sites. Grants will be used to enhance and protect these wetland areas.

Water, Food, and Agriculture: The 3rd Henry A. Wallace International Scientific Conference Series – a three day conference organized by the US Department of Agriculture and CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center) will address research aspects of critical issues of water management and quality for agriculture, food and other uses in Central America and Mexico.

Village-Led Watershed Management in Honduras – EcoLogic and its partners have developed strategies to protect watersheds around parks by assisting communities with regulatory authority over land use, expanding sustainable agriculture and silviculture, and reducing the incidence of water borne illness. With additional assistance, this successful methodology can be expanded into additional microwatersheds.

Community-Based Coastal Zone Management in MesoAmerica – EcoLogic works in strategically important national parks in Mesoamerica to increase the role of rural communities in the stewardship of marine and terrestrial resources by working with them, for example, to improve land use and water quality around parks and vital coastal mangrove habitats.

Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean – the primary goals of the World Resources Institute led project are to raise awareness about threats to coral reefs and to make available a comprehensive, high quality base of information on physical threat to the region's coral reefs, as an aid to more effective management. In collaboration with partners in the region, the project has implemented an analysis linking human activities and reef condition.

Collaborative Approach to Develop Integrated Watershed Management Strategies in the Wider Caribbean – a collaborative approach to design an integrated watershed management strategy based on local agricultural and coastal construction operations, while considering the impacts of run-off to sensitive coral reef systems.

Jamaica: An Integrated Approach to Managing the Marine, Coastal and Watershed Resources of East-Central Portland – This project aims to deliver a demonstration of integrated watershed and coastal areas management in a truly holistic manner, using the newly proposed Port Antonio Marine Park and Forest Corridor (PAMP) in Portland, Jamaica. This project aims to promote stewardship and governance among the residents and users of the resources within a continuous area spanning a mountain ridge to the marine environment, inclusive of a forest corridor. It aims to build on the efforts of previous projects in the area.

Barbados: An Integrated Approach for the Management and Protection of the St. Michael Groundwater Unit and Coastal Area – The volume of water resources available as well as the

increasing demand resulting from development has necessitated the exploration of other options such as desalination. The Barbados Water Authority is looking at the management and protection of the St. Michael catchment as the initial step towards involving desalination into an integrated water supply conservation and management approach. This will serve as a model for other Caribbean SIDS of similar hydrological characteristics.

CANARI/IIED - Who Pays for Water? Preparing for the use of market-based mechanisms to improve the contribution of watershed services to livelihoods in the Caribbean – research has been undertaken to explore interest in the use of market and incentive-based approaches to watershed protection in selected countries of the region, as well as the potential relevance of such approaches to achieving objectives of more effective watershed management and improved livelihoods. The intention is to optimise the direct and indirect benefits provided by watersheds to upstream communities, downstream users, and the wider society, with particular emphasis on the poor and vulnerable. Its rationale being to create capacity in national and local institutions to assess the potential of market-based instruments to enhance watershed protection services and improve livelihoods, and to design and employ such instruments when appropriate.

The projects listed above are only a sample of the initiatives WW2BW is trying to promote. We look forward to your participation in these projects or the addition of your activities to the roll-up.

Partnership of the Month:

NOAA Sea Grant International Latin America and Caribbean Program

NOAA Sea Grant International is one of the partnerships being shepherded by the **Integrated Watershed Management** sub-committee (highlighted below in our Sub-Committee of the Month column). Partnership contacts are Program Manager Matt Wilburn (Matt.Wilburn@noaa.gov) and Jill Hepp, Assistant Program Manager (Jill.Hepp@noaa.gov).

NOAA Research International Activities (IA), in conjunction with the National Sea Grant Office, the University of Rhode Island Sea Grant and the Coastal Resources Center, has been actively working towards assessing the feasibility of adapting the NOAA Sea Grant model of applied research, extension and education to Latin America and the Caribbean. This project complements WW2BW by providing a proven model that helps countries in this region to manage watershed and marine ecosystem based resource issues. The Sea Grant model allows for effective and efficient use of the often-limited resources that are available in developing countries by building a long-term institutional structure that includes constituency driven research, extension and education efforts. The U.S. domestic Sea Grant program consists of 30 programs and over 300 affiliated institutions, mostly universities. The network is eager to expand its scope by working with foreign partners and programs and could include the creation of Sea Grant programs at universities in the Wider Caribbean Region. Currently, Latin American partner universities include the University of Central America in Nicaragua and the University of Zamorano (Pan American School of Agriculture) in Honduras.

Developing the requirements for implementation plans for potential programs throughout Latin

America and the wider Caribbean will establish the basis for a regional network of institutions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean dedicated to discovering and applying the knowledge, values, and technologies that lead to more sustainable forms of coastal development and conservation. Under the current partnership, steps include:

- A. Preparation of two comprehensive background papers that:
 - 1. Analyze extension and research experience in developing country contexts by drawing from health, agriculture, and other resource fields and identify the factors that emerge as most critical to long-term success, including such issues as long-term financial stability and effective linkages between applied research, extension activities, and public education. (*“Background Paper #1”*)
 - 2. Identify the specific benefits that a Sea Grant model can bring to the resolution of complex marine and coastal resource issues, upstream and downstream, throughout Latin America and the wider Caribbean. This region illustrates different social, political, and environmental contexts, but each country is equally representative of a potential candidate member of a Sea Grant international network. (*“Background Paper #2”*)
- B. Assessment of the overall institutional capacity necessary to support a Sea Grant program in a country of the region.
- C. Preparation, distribution and discussion of a final report, resulting from the two background papers and a meeting of senior experts within the field of research and extension, with US and international institutions invested in coastal and marine issues and with potential donor partners with an interest in extending the Sea Grant model in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- D. Convening of a Symposium in early 2004 and participation in White Water to Blue Water to:
 - 1. Bring together senior international and national coastal leaders to discuss the two papers and the contextual analyses, develop guidelines for adapting the Sea Grant model to a developing country context, and discuss topics that emerge as important to the long term success of this undertaking.

This particular partnership will have completed many of the steps described above before the Miami Partnership Conference. In Miami, therefore, discussions of the International Sea Grant partnership will focus on next steps for the two pilot universities and discussion of the possibility of expansion of the Sea Grant network to other interested universities in the Wider Caribbean Region. Therefore, interested universities are invited to contact the project coordinators between now and March to begin discussing the possibility of expanding a Wider Caribbean Sea Grant network, and to participate in the discussions at the Miami conference as a way to help improve coordination and partnering between universities of the region.